

“Surviving Relational Failure”

2 Samuel 19:1-8

“Though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again. But the wicked are brought down by calamity.” Proverbs 24:16

Definition: A toxic family relationship is when two people are stuck in a way of relating that is poisoning them both.

Three foundational principles from the life of David and his family:

1. No one is immune to toxic family relationships

“The father had never interfered with him by asking, “Why do you behave as you do?” 1 Kings 1:6

“So if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!” 1 Corinthians 10:12

2. When a family relationship is toxic – you must act.
3. Don’t let toxic family relationships destroy other good relationships.

Four prayers for healing in family relationships:

1. “Father, strengthen me to accept my limitations.”

“We are like clay jars in which this treasure is stored. The real power comes from God and not from us.” 2 Corinthians 4:7

“And then he told me, ‘My grace is enough; it’s all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness.’ Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and I began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ’s strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size – abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.” 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10

2. “Father, enable me to forgive my family.”

“Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.’: Matthew 18:21-22

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

“If you see your friend going wrong, correct him. If he responds, forgive him. Even if it’s personal against you and repeated seven times through the day, and seven times he says, ‘I’m sorry, I won’t do it again,’ forgive him.” Luke 17:3-4

3. “Father, empower me to change my thinking.”

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” Jeremiah 17:9

4. “Father, free me to accept your love.”

“So we know and rely on the love that God has for us. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because He first loved us. There is no fear in love.” 1 John 4:16, 18, 19

“God has shown His love for us by sending His only Son into the world so that we could have life through Him.” 1 John 4:9